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Letter dated 27 November 2018 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the letter dated 3 May 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations (S/2018/423) as well as the letter dated 26 September 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations (S/2018/878) addressed to the President of the Security Council, transmitting, respectively, a resolution and a communiqué issued during two of the meetings of the League of Arab States on 15 April 2018 and 11 September 2018, respectively, I would like to bring the following to your attention.

1. This is not the first time that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has abused international and regional organizations to advance its politically motivated policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran through disinformation, fabrications and baseless allegations. Such provocative policies and ill-advised practices are against peaceful coexistence, good-neighbourliness and regional peace, security and stability.

2. In its foreign policy, the Islamic Republic of Iran accords priority to friendship with its neighbours, peace and stability in the region and constructive engagement across the globe. Iran is determined to continue to actively pursue this policy and its constructive cooperation with neighbouring countries and the international community in realizing common goals and addressing common threats, including the growing threats of terrorism and violent extremism.

3. Iran highly respects the principles of national sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran expects all neighbouring countries to fully respect its national sovereignty and territorial integrity and, in full conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations, to refrain from interference in its domestic affairs.

4. In this context, supporting the baseless unilateral claim by the United Arab Emirates over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Lesser Tunb and the Greater Tunb must be stopped. The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its consistent and principled position that it does not recognize the existence of any such dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates. The three islands have been and continue to be an inseparable part of the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and, therefore, any claim to the contrary is categorically rejected. Nonetheless, and to show its utmost respect for the principle of good-neighbourliness, Iran has always expressed its readiness to talk with the United Arab Emirates bilaterally with a view to removing any misunderstanding that may exist on the part of the United Arab Emirates over

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Abu Musa island. That said, we caution against any involvement by third parties in this issue of a bilateral character and regard such involvement to be hardly constructive or useful.

5. The baseless claims over the supplying of arms by the Islamic Republic of Iran to Yemen in violation of resolutions 2216 (2015) and 2231 (2015) of the Security Council are aimed at covering up the crimes committed by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Yemen and are firmly rejected. Instead of such fabrications, Saudi Arabia should end its aggression against Yemen, stop investing in death and destruction in that country as well as other countries in the region, put an end to interference in the regional countries and allow the realization of the legitimate rights of the people. Such fabrications were also repeated in a letter dated 20 November 2018 addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2018/1039), which hereby is categorically rejected.

6. While the International Atomic Energy Agency, as the only relevant competent international authority, for 13 times so far, has confirmed the full implementation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of its nuclear-related commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and thus has approved both the effectiveness of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and Iran's commitment thereto, questioning the capacity of this agreement and Iran's commitment to it is nothing but a dishonest and deceitful policy. Recalling that resolution 2231 (2015) has called upon all Members States, regional organizations and international organizations to take the appropriate actions to support the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action and to refrain from taking actions that undermine its implementation, such expressions are against the letter and spirit of that resolution.

7. Finally, "Persian Gulf" is the only true geographical designation for the body of water lying between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, which has been used since the dawn of history. As the institutional memory of all renowned cartographic agencies testifies, this sea area has been always identified as "Persian Gulf". In this context, the policy of the United Nations in the standardization of geographical names, and its practice in emphasizing the name Persian Gulf as the only geographical designation applicable to this body of water, are noteworthy and should therefore be respected by all.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Eshagh **Al Habib**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.